

• Abroad •

Tel Aviv. The fierce struggle for power that has been shaking Israel has deepened into a crisis for which the nation's institutional structure offers no ready solution. The truth about the mysterious "Lavon affair" of 1954 will probably never be known, but no one doubts that Pinchas Lavon is now making an uncompromisable challenge to David Ben-Gurion. Lavon, as its general secretary, bases his operations on Histadrut, the totalitarian labor federation (membership is compulsory) which is at the same time the major investment and management syndicate, rivaling the state in power potential. However, Lavon is also a member of Mapai, the government party, of which Ben-Gurion, bolstered by his protégés and presumed successors, Shimon Peres and Mosheh Dayan, still holds the leadership. The political logic dictates a radically altered government resting on another political formation. But the other parties of both Right and Left are too small and disunited to offer a viable alternative excluding Mapai, particularly with Histadrut looming over them. The ferocity of the personal struggle is having a disillusioning effect on the younger generation, already reacting against the Soviet-like regime of the rural kibbutz and the jealous power monopoly of the elders.

London. Eight major British corporations from the fields of electronics, engineering, power and entertainment, have joined to launch a British Space Development Company as "a springboard into space." The chairman of this new commercial combine, Sir Robert Renwick, declared: "We who have formed this company believe the money in space is more than any man ever dreamed of. It is colossal. We believe the gentlemen adventurers of space have a much bigger chance of vast wealth than ever did the adventurers of the Hudson's Bay Company or the East India Company. It is the real Eldorado of the future."

Milan. The new *giunta* (junta, coalition) that took over the municipal government at the end of January is believed by many observers to be the "opening to the Left" that will inaugurate a new phase of Italian politics. The junta is a combine of Christian Democrats with Petro Nenni's Communist-allied Socialist party. Parallel juntas may soon be formed in Florence and Genoa; and if so, the trend will probably broaden to a national scale for the 1962 general election. Significantly, the Milan development coincides with a shift in the chairmanship of the powerful Confederation of Industries from Dr. de Micheli, a firm conservative, to Dr. Furio Cicogna, head of the Chatillon textile company, a "moderate." Both changes were apparently triggered by the Kennedy election.

Vientiane, Laos. On several judgments about the past seven years, all observers are agreed: 1) that the \$40 million which the U.S. poured annually into this little jungle country was three times as much as it could responsibly absorb; 2) that the results in inflation, graft

and personal corruption were inevitable; 3) that the concentration of funds on the cities instead of the countryside exaggerated the evils and the economic distortions; 4) that it was folly to build a 25,000 man army, as the State Department ruled, instead of the force half that size recommended by the Pentagon; 5) that the armed force should have been small, flexible units trained for guerrilla operations in jungles instead of the conventional, motorized infantry that was in fact principally developed.



CPunch, Ben Roth

"He says he prefers an autonomous federation rather than a centralized republic."

Durgapur, India. The million-ton steel plant, built by a British combine, is already in partial operation, and will be completed soon, several months ahead of schedule. The Russian-built plant at Bhilai is well along. The German group, headed by Krupp, has had some troubles—partly because of very advanced installations—with its plant at Rourkela, but this will also start preliminary output soon. These three are state enterprises. At Jamshedpur, the Tata syndicate, with the help of American engineers and a World Bank loan, are completing a million ton addition to their long established works. When the four plants get fully on line two or three years from now, India—though its food deficit grows yearly vaster—will have the impressive modern steel industry without which no underdeveloped nation seems to feel at ease.

Paris. According to a UNESCO compilation, Nikita Khrushchev was the world's most translated author in 1960, scoring 198 published translations. Runner-up among the living—though behind Lenin, the Bible, Tolstoy, Jules Verne and Dostoiévsky in that order—was the English detective story mistress, Agatha Christie, with 103.

Copyright of National Review Bulletin is the property of National Review Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.